



## Somerset West church of Christ

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Dear Loved Ones,

Paul and Hettie Gerber greet you fondly from Somerset West, South Africa with this monthly report of September. We will give you news from our family, the church, school, and our new venture.

Family: We have not been able to talk to our daughter and her family for about a month as they have moved and do not have Wi-Fi yet. Hettie does WhatsApp messages, and everything seems to be ok, except that Zara had an inner ear infection. In Ireland, Rudi, Ilse and family are doing well. Michaela must take a gap year before she can start college next year, something to do with their visas. Paul did his learner license course, and Michaela has started hers. It is always a nervous time with new drivers!

The Church: We are happy to report 20 more baptisms in September. During the first part of the month the government only allowed us to have 50 in the assembly, and later opened it up to 100. We Zoom all the services as many elderly are reluctant to venture out as we were heavily into the 3<sup>rd</sup> wave of Covid.

Herewith the figures for September:

Date:	5	12	19	26	
AM Study:	40(20)	42(25)	42(20)	55 (25)	
AM:	56(32)	55(30)	71(28)	68(34)	
PM:	(33)	(35)	(40)	(35)	
Giving:	R6647.00	R13175.00	R5240.00	R5450.00	
Midweek:	(35)	(30)	(36)	(32)	(35)

The exchange rate in September was R14.0627 / \$1

The Brackets indicate the number of connections on Zoom.

The large number of baptisms continue to give us challenges with the follow-up studies. Some of the new converts have opted to attend the Bible School classes and this creates new challenges as they can be disruptive when they do not understand. One of the new sisters led the closing prayer for the Bible School class when the instructor asked for a volunteer! We sorted that out and can just thank our Lord for the enthusiasm of the new Christians.

### Elders

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### Evangelists

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School: We finished “Homiletics” and “Studies in the Pastorals” and in October we finished “Studies in the Life of Christ”, while the students currently are doing a course on “The New Testament World” taught by Lee Hagewood from Kentucky. We have some 25 students enrolled with up to 20 in class and 5 on Zoom. The students are all tentmakers and most of them are permanently employed. Sometimes they must work over-time, in the end they only get home close to 10PM.

New Project: For 30 years or more we have prayed that the Lord will open an opportunity to buy the land next to the church’s building. Well, He has done more than we asked for! He provided us with 2 properties next to one another. The primary focus will be to care for older Christians, but it will also be an opportunity for seasoned teachers to move in and help with the school activities – skills training and teaching of classes, outreach, and foundational teaching of new Christians – we are baptizing an enormous amount of people and follow-up teaching is difficult. We also have plans to use part of it for events training: Train people to work with and educate youth to be ready for employment and educate people how to run infant care centers – we have such a huge need in the community. We are inundated with work on this project – please pray on our behalf for wisdom, courage and finances to fall into place.

Please pray for Niels and Shirley – Niels has been in hospital with dizzy spells, Werner is slowly degenerating with Motor-Neuron’s disease. Every Tuesday I do a devotional with David who has brain cancer. Several are out of work, and we are feeding a large number of people.

Thank you for emails, calls, Zoom connections and so many ways you encourage us. We are thankful for your love and support.

Because of a cross  
Paul

Hettie’s Little Corner:

As Paul mentioned we are allowed to have 100 people in the church’s building for service now. While it was still only 50, I stayed at home and attended via Zoom simply to give one of the new Christians an opportunity to attend at the building. Just before the government lifted the lockdown to level one and through that allowed 100 to attend, I was sitting here, alone, singing by myself and doing everything along with the others, but still alone! And I thought to myself, this is not fun at all!! I do not like to be here alone, I need to be there with the others, and to my relief the level was lifted, and I could be back at the building. If there are any of you who have not be able to physically be at your church’s building, if possible, try to get back there. The love and encouragement that one gets by being together as brothers and sisters is so valuable and needed.

We miss our children tremendously but know that they are safe and doing well where they are, and for that we are grateful. We are hoping that the borders will soon be opened to Ireland, USA and Tasmania so we can get to see the ones we love and miss. We are so grateful for technology that makes it possible for us to see one another and visit for an hour or two. When we were in the USA while Paul was studying, we still relied on written letters and one or two phone calls, and those were for emergencies only.

I also want to thank you all for your love and encouragement that you have shared with us for so many years. It means so much to us. We pray that you all will stay safe and know that we love you all too. Much love, Hettie